REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-46, 55-58 are currently pending. Claims 47-54 were previously withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 1, 16, 31, 46, and 55-58 have been amended. Claims 2-15, 17-30, and 32-45 have not been changed since filing.

Amendments to the Specification

The above amendments to the Specification are made to correct typographical errors. These amendments are fully supported by the Specification as filed.

Allowed Claims

Claims 3-5, 7-13, 18-19, 24-29, and 35-43 are considered to contain patentable subject matter but have been objected to as depending from disallowed claims. The Applicant agrees with this determination, and has elected to amend the remaining claims in order to obtain allowance on all of the remaining claims.

Prior Art Rejections

The remaining claims have been rejected under Sections 102 and 103 as either anticipated by Yamazaki (published European Patent Application number EP 0 856 969 A1) or made obvious by Yamazaki in light of a publication by Halsall ("Data Communications, Computer Networks and Open Systems," 1996, Addison-Wesley, 4th Edition, pp. 576-577). Yamazaki teaches a Fibre Channel switch made utilizing a cell-based ATM switching fabric. Because a Fibre Channel frame is typically many times larger than a fixed-size ATM cell, Yamazaki teaches the subdivision of each frame into numerous cells, and the transmission of those cells over the ATM switch fabric. Since this switch fabric uses a very different addressing scheme than the destination addresses found in the Fibre Channel frames, it is necessary for Yamazaki to implementing a mapping procedure. Mapping tables are used to convert between the Fibre Channel destination addresses and the internal cell addresses. These cell addresses are then placed into the cell headers and are used to transmit the cells over the cell fabric. However, Yamazaki does not alter the Fibre Channel destination address found within the Fibre Channel frame headers. Rather, the original destination address, along with all other information in the Fibre Channel frame (including the header,

datafield, and CRC values) are embedded unchanged into the payloads of multiple ATM cells. Yamazaki, col. 12, line 17 to col. 14, line 39 and figures 8 and 11.

Amendments to the Claims

The present invention differs from Yamazaki in at least two material ways. First, Yamazaki does not alter the address information inside the Fibre Channel frame header. This is a crucial distinction since only by altering the destination information in the header can a data frame by routed using the internal address format without the use of external headers. Yamazaki requires that the Fibre Channel frames be embedded in cells, with each cell having its own header and destination information. The present invention does not require this embedding process and the additional overhead. Claims 16, 31, 46, and 55-58 were amended to explicitly recite that the address mapping causes the address information inside a frame header to change from the original format to the internal format. Consequently, these claims should be considered allowable over the prior art.

Second, both the original destination address and the internal address of the present invention are twenty-four bit addresses of the type used by Fibre Channel devices. This is important as the present invention meets a peculiar need for extending the range of FICON addresses available using a standard Fibre Channel switching fabric. Yamazaki does not do this, since the internally mapped address is an ATM address used for a cell-based switching fabric. Claim 1 was amended to explicitly recite that both the original and internal address formats are twenty-four bit addresses. This was not taught in Yamazaki or any of the cited prior art references. Therefore, claim 1 and its related dependent claims should be considered patentable over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

All of the claims remaining in this application should now be seen to be in condition for allowance. The prompt issuance of a notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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